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O 251216Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5838

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 4038

E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS SHUM, AR SUBJECT PRESIDENT OF LEAGUE FOR RIGHTS OF MAN RELEASED

- 1. INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY INFORMED UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM ON EVENING MAY 24 THAT ALFREDO SOFIA, PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINE LEAGUE FOR RIGHTS OF MAN, HAS BEEN RELEASED.
- 2. HARGUINDEGUY SAID THAT SOFIA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICATION OF A NEWPAPER/PAMPHLET WHICH ATTACKED GOA SCURRILOUSLY. NEVERTHELESS, HARGUINDEGUY CONTINUED, SOFIA IS A 76 YEAR OLD COMMUNIST WHO HAS BEEN IN AND OUT OF JAILS FOR THE PAST 40 YEARS.
- 3. NEWSOM HAD RAISED SOFIA CASE DURING HIS MORNING INTERVIEW WITH HARGUINDEGUY, NOTING THAT THIS TYPE OF ARREST IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF THING THAT SETS BACK OUR EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE OUR RELATIONS.

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